

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2-3, 6-9, 11-12 and 15-18 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 10 and 19 are currently being amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found at least in original claims 7-9. Support for the amendments to claim 10 can be found at least in original claims 16-18. Support for the amendments to claim 19 can be found at least in original claims 2-3. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 4-5, 10, 13-14 and 19 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,644 to Sasanuma et al. ("Sasanuma"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites "wherein said control section selects two of the pulse width modulating operation for a single pixel, the pulse width modulating operation for two pixels, and the pulse width modulating operation for three or more than three pixels, in accordance with which one of the image data Y, M, C, K has been output from said image processing section and for causing the pulse width modulating section to carry out the selected two pulse width modulating operations alternately on a line-by-line basis for the linear scanning operation of said scanning section." Thus in claim 1, the control section selects two pulse width modulating operations in accordance with which of the image data Y, M, C, K has been output from the image

processing section, and causes the pulse width modulating section to carry out the selected two pulse width modulating operations alternately on a line-by-line basis, where the two operations are two of the three operations of (1) a pulse width modulating operation for a single pixel, (2) a pulse width modulating operation for two pixels, and (3) a pulse width modulating operation for three or more than three pixels. Sasanuma fails to disclose at least this feature of independent 1.

The Office Action on page 7 cites to the embodiment of Figures 1-4 of Sasanuma as disclosing the above feature of claim 1 (which has been incorporated from original dependent claim 9). Applicant submits, however, that Sasanuma fails to disclose a control section that operates in the manner recited in claim 1, either in the embodiment of Figures 1-4, or anywhere else.

Sasanuma discloses a pulse-width modulator 26 that performs pulse-width modulation on a converted image, and outputs a signal to a laser driver 102 (col. 4, lines 21-23). Sasanuma also discloses that the pulse width modulation is employed as tone-representation, and that pulse width modulated laser light is scanned on a photosensitive drum to form a latent image in which one pixel width depends on the density of the pixel (col. 4, lines 28-32).

Sasanuma, however, does not disclose a control section that operates in the manner recited in claim 1. Namely Sasanuma fails to disclose or suggest a control section that selects two pulse width modulating operations in accordance with which of the image data Y, M, C, K has been output from the image processing section, and causes the pulse width modulating section to carry out the selected two pulse width modulating operations alternately on a line-by-line basis, where the two operations are two of the three operations of (1) a pulse width modulating operation for a single pixel, (2) a pulse width modulating operation for two pixels, and (3) a pulse width modulating operation for three or more than three pixels. Claim 1 is patentable over Sasanuma for at least this reason.

Independent claim 10 recites “wherein said control means selects two of the pulse width modulating operation for a single pixel, the pulse width modulating operation for two pixels, and the pulse width modulating operation for three or more than three pixels, in accordance with which one of the image data Y, M, C, K has been output from said image processing means and for causing the pulse width modulating means to carry out the selected two pulse width modulating operations alternately on a line-by-line basis for the linear scanning operation of said scanning means”, and is thus patentable over Sasanuma for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Independent claim 19, as amended, recites “selecting two of the pulse width modulating operation for a single pixel, the pulse width modulating operation for two pixels, and the pulse width modulating operation for three or more than three pixels and causes said pulse width modulating section to carried out the selected two pulse width modulating operations alternately, on a line-by-line basis, for the linear scanning operation of said scanning section.” Sasanuma fails to disclose or suggest selecting two of three pulse width modulating operations in the manner recited in claim 19, and claim 19 is patentable thereover for at least this reason.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or

even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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